

Field Trips to the WaterLife Discovery Center

The WaterLife Discovery Center (WDC) invites you and your class to join our volunteers this spring for a hands-on, fun-filled field trip in the outdoors! All of the volunteers who will teach your students come with a passion for science and/or teaching.

The WDC is offering field trips for students in **third grade** (and sometimes second if your schools third grade is not interested in coming). We do allow some second grade classes if the third grade teachers at the school do not want to come. Students will cycle through four stations in small groups (up to 15 students). There are three core stations (fish identification, macroinvertebrates and wetlands) that are always part of the trip with a choice for the fourth station. These field trips can **accommodate up to 60 children and require at least four adults** as supervisors.

The field trips **run from 9 am until 1:00 pm** with a half hour lunch break included. Once a trip has been scheduled for your class you will receive an informational packet via e-mail. There is financial assistance available for bussing to the WDC.

The Schedule

9:00-9:30	Introductions with hatchery tour
9:30-10:10	First rotation in small groups
10:10-10:50	Second rotation in small groups
10:50-11:20	Lunch and bathroom break
11:20-12:00	Third rotation in small groups
12:00-12:40	Fourth rotation in small groups
12:40-1:00	Wrap up

Core Stations

- 1) **Macroinvertebrates:** (*ID science standard 1.5*) This station will define “what is a macroinvertebrate?” Children will explore mini-ecosystems harboring all kinds of bugs, beetles, worms and more. They will learn about metamorphosis of these organisms which results in many of them changing into familiar airborne bugs. Students will learn about the changes that occur in body shape and function when an organism moves from an aquatic ecosystem to a terrestrial environment.

Children will learn that the bugs living in a waterbody can signify the health of the water.

- 2) **Wetlands** : (*ID science standard 3.2*) Students will learn how wetlands function and the importance wetlands to neighboring stream habitats. They will explore the wetland nature trail to discover the biodiversity (many different kinds of plants and animals) supported by the wetland. Students will record some of the plants and animals they observe. They will report these observations to the group.
- 3) **Fish identification**: (*ID science standard 5.1*) Students will identify local fish species. Students will be able to connect the importance of clean and cold water to the survival of some of our native fish species. Students will watch a short video with underwater filming of bull trout and play a number of games focused on fish identification.

Optional Stations

- 1) **Water Quality testing**: (*ID science standards 1.6&5.1*) Students will evaluate the health of different water samples using a variety of chemical and physical analyses. Students will test acidity (pH), dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature, turbidity (sediment in water), and the nitrate and phosphate content (fertilizers) of the water samples. Students will hypothesize the effects of different pollutants on the water quality and then they will use the chemical tests to draw conclusions.
- 2) **Fish Printing**: This activity allows students the opportunity to create a fish print on paper to take home as a souvenir of their trip to the WDC. Ideas as well as examples of uses for the print will be shared with the students. All materials will be provided.

If you are interested in bringing your class to the WDC please contact:

Erin Mader at (208) 263-5310 X107 or e-mail her at lakescommission@gmail.com

The WDC is located at the Sandpoint Hatchery which is 1.5 miles down Lakeshore Drive from the Long Bridge. You can visit the WDC webpage at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/education/?getPage=178>

*These trips are available through a combined effort of Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Pend Oreille Basin Commission, the Master Naturalist program, Lake*A*Syst, and numerous others who have donated funds and time to make this nature center a reality.*